

Pastor Harland Gilliland, Kelso First Presbyterian Church, gave the invocation. Mayor Don Gregory led the flag salute. The Regular Meeting of the Kelso City Council was called to order by Mayor Don Gregory. Councilmembers in attendance were: Gregory, Slater, Chester, McDaniel, Wheeler, Keolker, Futch, and Student Representative Kiffany Iverson.

CITIZEN'S BUSINESS:

Bill Kasch, 2619 Nichols Blvd., Longview, presented information concerning the possibility of building an adult-youth-senior community center and asked for support from the City of Kelso.

Minutes:

Upon Motion by Councilmember Slater and seconded by Councilmember Keolker, 'Approve the minutes of the 2/15/05 Regular Meeting,' motion carried, all voting yes.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE:

Kiffany Iverson: 1) I am filling in for Devyn Davis who is on her way to Tacoma to play in the Girl's State Basketball Tournament this weekend. Boys Wrestling did well at District and State. Boys swimming took League and District Champs. Track, tennis, softball, and baseball will begin soon. 2) Last week we celebrated Renaissance Day. Renaissance Club recognizes students with high achievement in the arts, academics, and extra curricular activities. We had an assembly which featured orchestra, band, drama, and choir and the Evergreen Ballet and Dance Studio was invited to perform. We also hosted open mike night. 3) Gaither Pool is open. 4) DECA has approximately 24 students going to State this weekend.

PRESENTATIONS:

Paul Youmans, Director of Pathways 20/20, gave a report and presented a booklet called Cowlitz County Community Report Card. Pathways 20/20 looks at how we can pull together to build a healthier community in Cowlitz County.

PROCLAMATION:

Mayor Gregory read a Proclamation declaring the week of March 14 to 18, 2005, as **Construction Industry Week** in Kelso. Mayor Gregory thanked these skilled workers in the trade unions who have contributed much to the City of Kelso, especially with the projects at Tam O'Shanter Park. Jim Kodama, on behalf of the Trade Union, accepted the proclamation. Linda Praast, Executive Director of the Lower Columbia Contractors

Association, indicated there is a very talented pool of union and non union contractors and building professionals in Cowlitz County.

PRESENTATION:

Cowlitz County Commissioner Kathleen Johnson gave a presentation on a potential 0.2% sales tax to declare war on Cowlitz County's meth problem. Today Chairman Jeff Rasmussen gave the State of the County Address and announced there will be a series of Town Hall meetings in May and June for individuals who might be interested in funding the war on methamphetamines. The County is not proposing there will be a tax increase; however, they are asking the public for their input to see if there is an interest in funding this cause. This sales tax would require a vote by the citizens.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Approval of Fireworks Permits: 1) Kelso Recreation Council, 2) Kelso Kiwanis Club, 3) Kelso Eagles

Upon Motion by Councilmember Slater and seconded by Councilmember Keolker, 'Approve the Consent Agenda,' motion carried, all voting yes.

MOTION ITEMS:**Ordinance No. 05-3562 – Amending Ordinance No. 4-3553 Relating to Parks**

Advisory Board: The City Clerk read the proposed Ordinance by title only. Upon Motion by Councilmember Chester and seconded by Councilmember Keolker, 'Pass on 2nd Reading, 'AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KELSO AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 04-3553, CODIFIED AS KMC 2.74, RELATING TO THE PARKS ADVISORY BOARD,' motion carried, all voting yes.

Award of Bid to Replace North Pacific Avenue Waterline: Upon Motion by Councilmember Wheeler and seconded by Councilmember Keolker, 'Award Contract for North Pacific Avenue Waterline Replacement to Integrity Excavating and Construction, Inc., the lowest bidder, for \$243,391.20.' Public Works Director David Sypher explained the Council has the option of awarding the base bid for \$243,391.20 or the base bid and additive bid for \$355,693.71. This would require an additional transfer of money not originally budgeted for approximately \$75,000. The original motion was amended by the maker and the second to include the entire project in the amount of \$355,693.71. Further discussion followed. Motion carried, all voting yes.

Resolution No. 05-890 – Declaring Certain Property Surplus (Scrap Metal & various PC pipe, Wood Products & Lumber): The City Clerk read the proposed resolution by title only. Upon Motion by Councilmember Keolker and seconded by Councilmember Chester, 'Adopt Resolution No. 05-890 'A RESOLUTION OF THE

CITY OF KELSO, WASHINGTON, DECLARING CERTAIN PERSONAL PROPERTY OF THE CITY OF KELSO TO BE SURPLUS AND DIRECTING THE DISPOSITION THEREOF,' motion carried, all voting yes.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

Doug Robinson: 1) You are invited to attend a breakfast sponsored by the Red Cross to honor local heroes (police officers, fire fighters, ambulance drivers, etc.) Contact Terry Hall if you want to attend. 2) Saturday, February 26th, I went to a very informative meeting in Clark County dealing with the Cowlitz Tribe. I met some councilmembers of the Cowlitz Tribe and learned what you can and cannot do when you enter into agreements with tribes. Todd Cooley and I have an appointment with them this week to discuss the possibilities of some visitor center business arrangements we can work on together. We will also present information concerning the airport because they may desire to have some commercial hangers.

STAFF MEMBERS:

David Sypher: 1) Minor Road reservoir roofs are well underway. One roof is on and the old one has been torn off. TEMCOR will come March 10 to begin working on the new roof, which will take about a week. 2) We are currently advertising bids for the Academy sewer project and the Long/Royal intersection. Hope to bid soon for Stan Rister Stadium Phase III and North Kelso Sewer. North Pacific Road and the Kelso S Curves projects will be postponed until next year.

Kent Anderson: 1) Chris McDonnell was hired as a part-time building inspector. 2) Received confirmation that we are receiving a grant from the State for approximately \$200,000 to build the "at Grade" pedestrian railroad crossing. The railroad doesn't want us to build the crossing; however, the contract we signed with them several years ago is still valid.

Geraldine Veenstra: No Report

Wayne Nelson: The meth problem has been with us for a long time, but the public is becoming more aware. Many of the resources law enforcement has had to address problems in our community are going away. We no longer have the Kinship Program or a Dare Officer. We have lost the Cops Grant. We still have an officer at school, but the City and the Kelso School District now pays the officer. Local Law Enforcement Block grants to purchase equipment and training have been lost. As problems get bigger and bigger, we experience resources that keep getting cut back more and more. The suggested tax will be about the only source we will have to continue to address these problems.

Veryl Anderson: No Report

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Joe Wheeler: No Report

Todd McDaniel: No Report

David Futcher: A special Cubs Board meeting has been scheduled to consider joining the transit pool. If the board decides to join, I will bring an operating agreement proposal to the next Council meeting.

Alan Slater: This is probably one of the saddest days of my life. Joan Smith, called me to tell me her husband, my friend for over 60 years, drowned yesterday. Ken was a Kelso boy who had gone into education. Ken was a teacher, principal, and he retired as an assistant superintendent. He and his wife donated income from a ranch to the Kelso School District. He will be missed by many here in Kelso.

Mark Chester: Due to the lack of rain we have had this year, we are probably going to go into a dry summer and need to think about conserving water. Due to possible fire danger, it might be a good time for residents to keep brush cut down.

Jack Keolker: 1) I think we should have staff and Council sign a card and send to Ken Smith's wife and family. Mayor Gregory mentioned Kelso has many people who have done so much for Kelso and it would be nice to have a special wall in our City Hall to honor such individuals. 2) Spring is coming and I want to encourage the businesses and residents to clean up yards and houses, especially on South Pacific.

Don Gregory: 1) Glad to read that Kaiser and Peace Health along with local physicians are establishing a free clinic for those who have no health insurance. 2) Congratulations to Bob Gregory (no relation to me) who is the new Longview City Manager.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

The Council convened into Executive Session at 9:04 p.m. to discuss potential litigation. At 9:34 p.m. the Council reconvened into Regular Session.

Upon Motion by Councilmember Futcher seconded by Councilmember Keolker, 'Move to Adjourn,' motion carried, all voting yes. The meeting was adjourned at 9:34 p.m.

MAYOR

CITY CLERK